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**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ADOPTS  
OBEY'S BUDGET PRIORITIES**

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*Puts Veterans Health care First, Also Focuses on Education,  
Energy,  
Access to Health Care, Science, and Local Law Enforcement*

WASHINGTON, D.C. —“ The House Appropriations Committee has officially adopted Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey’s (D-WI) recommendations for redirecting priorities in the

federal budget. Those recommendations make veterans' medical care the top priority for the coming year and focus additional resources on high priority long term investments, including education, energy, access to health care, science research, and local law enforcement funding.

“The only families sacrificing because of the war are military families, and it’s about time that we live up to our promise to meet their medical needs. That’s why they are our top priority this year,” Obey said. “After taking care of our veterans, we’re going to focus on making the investments that will meet the country’s needs over the long haul.”

Obey noted that the plan adopted by the Committee stays within the spending limits set by the House passed budget resolution, and:

Ã~ Allows for the largest single increase in veterans' medical care funding.

Ã~ Focuses resources on increasing access to health care and dental care.

Ã~ Eliminates the cut in funding for medical research into diseases such as Parkinson's and Cancer that was proposed in the President's budget.

Ã~ Invests in raising the academic performance of America's students and making higher education more affordable for working families.

Ã~ Makes room in the budget for additional funding for local school districts to help relieve pressure on local property taxes.

Ã~ Encourages research and development of renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Ã~ Supports local, state and federal law enforcement and homeland security needs.

However, Obey warned that finishing the appropriations bills this year could be complicated by a veto threat from the White House. “The Administration thinks it’s more important to spend \$55 billion for tax cuts for millionaires than to spend \$20 billion in new investments in education and health care and science, so they’ve warned that the President will veto any measure that provides more than they’ve asked for,” Obey said, noting that the additional investments authorized by the House budget resolution amount to a 2.2 percent change from the President’s wish list.

“That 2.2 percent is the difference between a President who needs to work with an independent Congress and a King who does not,” Obey concluded.

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